



## Announcement

December 13, 2016

## Appointment of Seven Judges

It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to announce that the following individuals have been appointed as judges of the Provincial Court of British Columbia:

- **Lynal Doerksen,**
- **Cathaline Heinrichs,**
- **Brian Hutcheson,**
- **Peter LaPrairie,**
- **Susan Mengerling,**
- **Cassandra Malfair, and**
- **Patricia Stark.**

**Judge Cathaline Heinrichs** – will be sworn in on January 3, 2017 and assigned to the Interior Region with resident Chambers situated in Kelowna, BC.

Judge Heinrichs received an LLB from the University of British Columbia in 1992 and was called to the bar in 1994. During her career she has focused on family law. As a sole practitioner since 2000, Heinrichs has worked in adoption, child protection, advocacy for special needs children and family, and separation and divorce in both provincial and supreme courts. A resident of Kelowna, she has been active as a volunteer in local organizations.

**Judge Cassandra Malfair** – will be sworn in on January 9, 2017 and assigned to the Northern Region with resident Chambers situated in Prince George, BC.

Judge Malfair is a Crown counsel in Prince George where she is a senior trial crown and prosecutes major cases. Her experience includes insolvency, constitutional law and regulatory experience in securities and insurance. After graduating with an LLB from UBC in 2000, Malfair held positions in two firms in private practice in Vancouver and Calgary before joining the Ministry of Justice in 2007.

**Judge Susan Mengerling** – will be sworn in on January 9, 2017 and assigned to the Northern Region with resident Chambers situated in Prince George, BC.

Judge Mengerling has spent most of her career in criminal law since her graduation with an LLB from UBC in 2000. Since 2003, Mengerling has served as Crown counsel for the Ministry of Justice and initially prosecuted cases in Fort Ware/TsayKeh, Mackenzie, Valemount and McBride. Now based primarily in Prince George, she has worked on increasingly complex files as a trial lawyer and volunteers with community organizations.

**Judge Brian Hutcheson** – will be sworn in on January 16, 2017 and assigned to the Vancouver Island Region with resident Chambers situated in Courtenay, BC.

Judge Hutcheson was called to the bar in 1985 after receiving an LLB from the University of Victoria. He has practised civil and criminal litigation and appeared at all levels of court in B.C. Hutcheson joined Swift Dato Law Corporation of Courtenay in 1989 and is the partner in charge of litigation. In his practice, a mix of family and civil litigation, he uses mediation and negotiation extensively to resolve files.

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**Judge Peter LaPrairie** – will be sworn in on January 16, 2017 and assigned to the Fraser Region with resident Chambers situated in Surrey, BC.

Judge LaPrairie earned an LLB from the University of Victoria in 1989 and an LLM from the Criminal Law Program at the Osgoode Hall Law School of York University. For more than 20 years, LaPrairie has served as a federal prosecutor and is currently general counsel for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada in Vancouver. He has been an active supporter of many community events and organizations in the lower mainland.

**Judge Lynal Doerksen** – will be sworn in on January 30, 2017 and assigned to the Interior Region with resident Chambers situated in Cranbrook, BC.

Judge Doerksen has practiced in many areas of litigation, including family, employment, commercial, personal injury and criminal and has appeared before all levels of court in B.C. and Alberta. After receiving an LLB from the University of Alberta, Doerksen served as crown counsel in Alberta and since 2005 has been Administrative Crown Counsel in Cranbrook. He has been published in the Criminal Law Quarterly and the Advocate.

**Judge Patricia Stark** – will be sworn in on January 30, 2017 and assigned to the Fraser Region with resident Chambers situated in Surrey, BC.

Judge Stark earned an LLB from the University of Calgary and began practice as a criminal defence counsel. She joined the Ministry of Justice in 1992 and served as Crown counsel until 2002, at which time she became a sole practitioner and criminal defence counsel. Stark represents the mentally ill before the courts and the B.C. Review Board and has become a resource on this topic, as well as criminal law, for lawyers, judges and other professionals.

I congratulate these new colleagues on their appointments and welcome them to the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

Thomas J. Crabtree  
Chief Judge  
Provincial Court of British Columbia